

Remarks

Claim Amendments and Prior Art Rejections

The feature of the area described by the main cutting edges has been replaced with the feature of the main cutting edges extending substantially perpendicular to the shank axis from the outer perimeter radially inwards down to the base of the centering cone, as shown in the figures of the application and described in the specification.

This amendment to the claims now definitely clarifies the difference between the present invention and Maier's drill. The main cutting edges of the drill bit disclosed in Maier extend oblique to the shank axis. Thus, claim 1, as amended, is novel with respect to Maier.

Hageman discloses a centering tip, rather than a centering cone (as recited in claim 1 of the present invention). If the top part of the centering tip is regarded as a centering cone, then, the main cutting edges terminate below the base of this cone.

Accordingly, the feature as introduced in amended claim 1 is not disclosed in Hageman. Consequently, the subject matter of claim 1 cannot be derived from a combination of Maier and Hageman.

Besides these differences, Applicant still respectfully believes that a person skilled in the art would not combine the features of a spot-weld removal tool (Hageman) with features of a drill designed for drilling circuit boards, i.e., for drilling plastics composites (Maier), as the requirements are completely different.

The Examiner argued that the features of "the main cutting edges extending along a line substantially vertically to the shank axis", which Applicant claimed as a difference

between the present invention and the prior art, is not recited in the claims. Accordingly, the current amendment to claim 1 should overcome this objection.

Wherefore, further consideration and allowance of the claims, as amended, is respectfully requested. A three-month extension of time in which to respond to the outstanding Office Action is hereby requested. A PTO 2038 in the amount of \$510 is enclosed for the prescribed Small Entity three-month extension fee.

Respectfully submitted,



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